

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06140 01 OF 02 221648Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----075370 221651Z /47  
O 221450Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3087

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JIDDA 6140

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, SA  
SUBJ: LETTER FROM KING KHALID TO PRESIDENT CARTER

1. FOREIGN MINISTER PRINCE SAUD HANDED TO AMBASSADOR LETTER  
FROM KING KHALID TO PRESIDENT CARTER ON AUGUST 21. FOLLOWING  
IS EMBASSY TRANSLATION.

2. BEGIN TEXT: IT GIVES ME PLEASURE TO SEND THIS LETTER  
TO YOUR EXCELLENCY WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CONTINUOUS COOP-  
ERATION BETWEEN OUR TWO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND OF OUR COMMON  
EFFORTS AIMING AT SUPPORTING THE FORCES OF MODERATION IN THE  
AREA IN THEIR OPPOSITION TO ACTIVE COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS THERE-  
IN, A MATTER WHICH RECEIVES CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION FROM OUR  
COUNTRY IN PARTICULAR AND FROM THE FREE WORLD IN GENERAL.

3. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOU, MR PRESIDENT, FULLY REALIZE  
THE EXTENT OF COMMUNIST CONCENTRATION IN THE SOUTH OF THE  
ARABIAN PENINSULA AS WELL AS OF WHAT RUSSIA, CUBA, AND EAST  
GERMANY ARE DOING IN ADEN WHERE THEY OBVIOUSLY ENJOY  
HEGEMONY AND INFLUENCE. WE FEEL CERTAIN ALSO THAT YOU  
ARE FULLY AWARE OF WHAT THOSE COUNTRIES ARE ACTIVELY  
DOING, THROUGH THE ADEN REGIME, IN PURSUIT OF THEIR OBJEC-  
TIVES WHICH GO BEYOND THE BORDERS OF SOUTHERN YEMEN.  
THESE GREEDY OBJECTIVES MUST BE ONLY TOO CLEAR TO YOUR  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 06140 01 OF 02 221648Z

EXCELLENCY AS THEY USE NORTH YEMEN AS ONLY A PASSAGEWAY  
LEADING TO THEIR REAL TARGET.

4. MR PRESIDENT, YOU MAY AGREE WITH ME THAT AT A TIME  
WHEN WE ARE BOTH STRIVING JOINTLY TO LIMIT, INDEED TO PUT  
AN END TO, THE COMMUNIST PRESENCE IN ADEN, WE MUST NEED  
PAY ATTENTION TO AND BE CAREFUL ABOUT NOT LOSING OTHER

STRATEGIC AREAS LIKE NORTH YEMEN TO THE COMMUNIST EXPANSION AIMS IN THE ARABIAN PENINSULA. YOU MAY ALSO SHARE WITH ME THE FEELING OF CONCERN TOWARDS THE HIGHLY ACTIVE RUSSIAN-CUBAN ROLE IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE ARABIAN PENINSULA WHICH SEES NORTH YEMEN AS ONLY A FIRST STEP.

5. PROCEEDING FROM THIS BACKGROUND THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA HAS DONE ALL IN ITS POWER TO ATTRACT NORTH YEMEN INTO THE FOLD OF THE FORCES OF MODERATION. WE HAVE DONE THIS SO EFFECTIVELY THAT WE CAN NOW SAY THAT THE PRESENT REGIME IN NORTH YEMEN IS READY TO DISPENSE WITH THE RUSSIAN ARMS WHICH NORTH YEMEN USED TO IMPORT FROM

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 JIDDA 06140 02 OF 02 221726Z  
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W  
-----075803 221729Z /42  
O 221450Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3088

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 JIDDA 6140

NODIS

RUSSIA AND CONSEQUENTLY TO DO AWAY WITH THE SERVICES OF THE RUSSIAN EXPERTS AS WELL AS TO PUT AN END TO THE RUSSIAN PRESENCE IN THE COUNTRY AS SOON AS NORTH YEMEN IS PROVIDED WITH CONVINCING ALTERNATIVES BY THE MODERATE AND FRIENDLY COUNTRIES HEADED BY THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

6. IN WELCOMING SUCH MODEST ALTERNATIVES THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH YEMEN WILL NATURALLY LOOK AT THE EXTENT TO WHICH RUSSIA IS ARMING THE REGIME IN ADEN FROM BOTH THE QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE ASPECTS. NORTH YEMEN WILL QUITE NATURALLY HAVE TO DO THIS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ADEN IS THE CENTER WHICH IS EXPORTING AGGRESSION AND SUBVERSIVE PRINCIPLES INTO THE REST OF THE YEMEN. THIS CONSIDERATION IS PRESSING THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH YEMEN INTO EMPHASIZING THEIR NEEDS IN ARMS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, AND TRAINING TO A DEGREE WHICH WILL WARD OFF THE EXPECTED DANGER, MADE SO ACUTE BY THE STATUS OF MILITARY PREPARED-

NESS OF THE POTENTIAL ENEMY. THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA  
IN THIS CONTEXT CANNOT BY ITSELF MATCH THE POWER OF THAT  
ADVERSARY NOR RESPOND FULLY TO THE NEEDS OF NORTH YEMEN  
IN THIS FIELD.

7. THE RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH  
YEMEN FEEL INCREASINGLY THE NEED TO HAVE MILITARY ALTERNA-  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 JIDDA 06140 02 OF 02 221726Z

TIVES, ADEQUATE IN QUANTITY AND QUALITY, PROVIDED TO THEM  
BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY QUITE RIGHTLY ANTICIPATE THE SOVIET  
UNION WILL DO THE MOMENT NORTH YEMEN TURNS AWAY AND  
CEASES TO SEEK ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM IT. THE  
RESPONSIBLE NORTH YEMENI OFFICIALS ANTICIPATE THAT THE  
SOVIET UNION WILL IMMEDIATELY STOP PROVIDING THEM WITH ANY  
SPARE PARTS OR ANY SUPPORTIVE EQUIPMENT COMPATIBLE WITH  
THE RUSSIAN ARMS AND MILITARY HARDWARE WHICH THE SOVIET  
UNION HAS BEEN PROVIDING NORTH YEMEN. SUCH A DEVELOPMENT  
WOULD INEVITABLY RENDER THOSE ARMS AND HARDWARE ITEMS  
VIRTUALLY NON-EXISTENT. THIS IS WHAT PRECISELY HAPPENED  
TO EGYPT AND SOMALIA.

8. THUS WE FIND THAT THE NEED OF THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH  
YEMEN AND ITS DESIRE TO ACQUIRE SUCH QUANTITIES OF AMER-  
ICAN ARMS AND EQUIPMENT AS WOULD (A) BE COMMENSURATE  
WITH ITS FEAR OF SOUTHERN YEMEN SUPPORTED BY INTERNATIONAL  
COMMUNISM, (B) COMPENSATE NORTH YEMEN FOR THE ARMS AND  
EQUIPMENT IT WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE RECEIVED FROM RUSSIAN  
SOURCES, AND (C) SATISFY NORTH YEMEN'S ARMED FORCES AND  
THEIR YOUNG YEMENI LEADERS. ALL THESE CONSIDERATIONS  
HAVE THEIR MILITARY, SECURITY, POLITICAL, AND PSYCHOLO-  
GICAL CONSIDERATIONS. THIS IS ESPECIALLY SO IF WE  
BEAR IN MIND THAT AT A TIME WHEN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDIP  
ARABIA IS DOING ITS UTMOST TO CONVINCE NORTH YEMEN TO  
REPLACE ITS RUSSIAN ARMS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT WITH  
AMERICAN SUPPLIES, WE FIND THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS OFFER-  
ING NORTH YEMEN NEW MILITARY AID INCLUDING AIRCRAFT, NAVAL  
VESSELS AND TANKS IN QUANTITIES WHICH THE KINGDOM ALONE  
IS INCAPABLE OF MATCHING.

9. THE GOVERNMENT OF NORTH YEMEN HAS SUBMITTED A LIST  
CONTAINING ITS URGENT REQUESTS AND REQUIREMENTS WHICH  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 JIDDA 06140 02 OF 02 221726Z

WE JOINTLY MIGHT NOT BE ABLE TO RESPOND TO IN THE SHORT  
TERM. THEREFORE YOUR EXCELLENCY MAY FIND IT AGREEABLE

THAT THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA WOULD JOIN THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA IN FINANCING, ON A 50-50 BASIS, WHAT IS POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE NORTH YEMEN WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE U.S. FOREIGN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. THIS WOULD CONSTITUTE YOUR EXCELLENCY'S AND YOUR GOVERNMENT'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS DRIVING AWAY THE DANGER THREATENING NORTH YEMEN AND THE REGION. IT WOULD COME ALSO AS AN ELEMENT UNIFYING OUR EFFORTS TOWARD STEMMING THE COMMUNIST TIDE AND PROTECTING THE COMMON INTERESTS OF THE FREE WORLD. I NEED NOT AT THIS JUNCTURE UNDERSCORE THAT THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA WOULD BE PREPARED TO PARTICIPATE IN DOING ANYTHING THAT MIGHT BE CALCULATED TO CONVINCE CONGRESS AND AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION (OF THE NEED FOR ALL THIS) IN ANY WAY, SIMILAR TO OUR PARTICIPATION IN THE F-15 CASE.

10. THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA BELIEVES THAT WITHIN THIS FRAMEWORK AND AT THE PRESENT STATE IT WOULD SUFFICE THAT WE OFFER NORTH YEMEN THE FOLLOWING:

- (A) TWELVE F-5E'S WITH THE ARMS, AMMUNITION, AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY AND PERTAINING THERETO.
- (B) TWO TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT (C-130'S).
- (C) SIXTY-FOUR TANKS (M-60'S).
- (D) ONE HUNDRED ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (M-113'S).
- (E) THE NECESSARY TECHNICAL SUPPORT AND TRAINING PERSONNEL FOR THESE ARMS AND TYPES OF EQUIPMENT INCLUDING AN AMERICAN MILITARY MISSION CONSISTING OF THE NECESSARY EXPERTS AND ADVISERS.

11. I WOULD BE VERY PLEASED TO RECEIVE FROM YOUR EXCELLENCY A REPLY INDICATING THAT THIS SUGGESTION OF MINE MEETS WITH YOUR APPROVAL AND EMPHASIZING YOUR DESIRE TO WORK TOWARDS ITS IMPLEMENTATION FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 JIDDA 06140 02 OF 02 221726Z

COMMON OBJECTIVES WHICH SERVE THE INTEREST OF BOTH OUR COUNTRIES, THE STABILITY OF THE REGION, THE UPHOLDING OF THE FORCES OF MODERATION AND THE SAFEGUARDING OF THE INTEREST OF THE FREE WORLD.

12. PLEASE ACCEPT, YOUR EXCELLENCY, MY WARMEST GREETINGS AND SINCEREST WISHES FOR YOUR CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH, WELL BEING AND SUCCESS. /S/ KHALID BIN ABD AL-AZIZ AL SAUD.  
TAIF, 17 RAMADAN 1398 A.H., CORRESPONDING TO AUGUST 21, 1978. END TEXT.  
WEST

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, AGREEMENTS, MILITARY EQUIPMENT, PERSONNEL TRAINING, TEXTS, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, COMMUNISTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS, CAT-B  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 aug 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978JIDDA06140  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** OA  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** P850033-0062  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** JIDDA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780838/aaaabfsp.tel  
**Line Count:** 221  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 167f635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION NODS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Page Count:** 5  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** NODIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 jun 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1663914  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LETTER FROM KING KHALID TO PRESIDENT CARTER  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PPDC, MASS, SA, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (SAUD, KHALID IBN ABD AL-AZIZ AL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/167f635f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014